

Rural Healthcare Exchange Program

“Peer-to-Peer Mentoring in Rural Idaho”



What is the Rural Healthcare Exchange Program? The State Office of Rural Health is offering a new program to provide opportunities for health organizations serving rural and underserved areas of Idaho to learn from their peers. The Rural Healthcare Exchange Program provides travel support for individuals or small groups to meet with similar entities from other areas of the state and share information, ideas, and successful approaches to improving quality and access to healthcare services.

Who is eligible? The program is open to staff serving Critical Access Hospitals, Rural Health Clinics, Federally Qualified Health Centers, and Free Clinics. Eligible applicants also include rural non-profit EMS agencies, rural health grant writers and foundation staff, and network representatives serving rural health organizations. The program does *not* include visits with consultants, conference travel, or support for regularly scheduled meetings.

How does it work? The applicant speaks with a prospective peer mentor to discuss the proposed exchange activity. Applicants may visit a peer mentor in another community or invite the mentor to visit their organization. After an agreement is reached, the applicant submits the Rural Healthcare Exchange Program application to the State Office of Rural Health.

When can the exchange be scheduled? The State Office of Rural Health will contact the applicant within 5-7 business days with an approval or denial of the application. Applicants and exchanges meeting the limitations and criteria defined in the attached instructions will be approved on a “first-come, first-served” basis. Exchanges must be completed by June 30, 2006.

What happens after receiving the approval? Applicants proceed with their proposed exchange based on the approved application. Following the exchange visit, the applicant submits an invoice, receipts, and a completed outcome report to the State Office of Rural Health for reimbursement.

Questions? Details about completing an application and a copy of the required outcome report are attached. For additional questions or information, please contact:

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Rural Healthcare Exchange Program- APPLICATION
"Peer-to-Peer Mentoring in Rural Idaho"

1) Applicant: _____ Date: _____
Organization: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ Zip: _____
Contact Name: _____
Email: _____
Phone: _____ Fax: _____
Name of person(s) involved in exchange: _____

2) Location of exchange:
Check one:
☐ I/We want to visit the following community/organization: _____
☐ I/We want to bring _____ to our community/organization.

3) Exchange request:
a. Describe the exchange mentoring activity for which funding is requested: _____

b. Anticipated date(s) of exchange (*no later than 06/30/06*): _____
c. Intended outcome: _____

d. Total estimated funding request: \$ _____
Details on allowable expenses can be found on the instruction page.
Mileage: \$ _____ (calculated at # miles x \$.44/mile)
Lodging: \$ _____ (maximum 3 nights/person; limited to length of exchange)
Airfare: \$ _____ (limited to advance purchase, coach class)
Meals: \$ _____ (limited to state per diem rates and only with overnight stay)
Stipend: \$ _____ provide justification: _____
(maximum \$200 per exchange)



Organizations receiving travel support are required to complete the attached outcomes report upon exchange completion; receipts for lodging and airfare are required for reimbursement.

Instructions for Completing Rural Healthcare Exchange Program Application

1. **Eligible Applicants:** Critical Access Hospitals, certified Rural Health Clinics, Federally Qualified Health Centers, Free Clinics, network representatives serving rural health entities, rural health grant writers and foundation staff, rural non-profit EMS agencies, and other non-profit healthcare entities serving rural and underserved areas of Idaho.
 - The mentoring exchange may involve more than one person from the same organization, if they are essential to implementing the project. *Please note: funds cannot be requested to cover consultant fees, conference expenses, or regularly scheduled meetings.*
2. **Location of Exchange:** The exchange visit may occur at the applicant's organization or the applicant may travel to the location of the peer mentor. This decision is based upon the agreed upon location of the applicant and mentor. For example, the applicant may invite a peer with expertise in quality improvement to meet with a team at their facility or an applicant may travel to another location to view and evaluate an automated medication dispensing system.
3. **Exchange Request:** Itemize and total the funding estimate for the proposed exchange based on the following:
 - Round-trip ground mileage between your organization and the mentor location at \$.44 per mile; receipts not necessary for reimbursement; state mileage chart used for mileage verification.
 - Lodging limited to reasonable accommodations and only those nights necessary to meet the needs of the proposed exchange; maximum three nights per person for two-day exchange; receipt required for reimbursement.
 - Airfare limited to two-week advance purchase, coach class, round trip travel; receipt required for reimbursement.
 - Meals reimbursed at state per diem rates: breakfast \$7.50, lunch \$10.50, dinner \$16.50, full day \$30.00; receipts not needed. Meal expenses without an overnight stay are not reimbursable.
 - A stipend is available for individuals that will not be compensated for the time spent on the exchange activity. The stipend is limited to \$200 per exchange and justification must be provided.

Approval and Reimbursement Information

- A. Applications may be e-mailed, faxed, or mailed to the State Office of Rural Health; applicants will receive confirmation and an approval or denial of the proposed exchange within 5-7 business days of receipt of the application.
- B. All travel must be completed by June 30, 2006, and invoices received by July 15, 2006.
- C. The attached outcome report must be submitted with your reimbursement request; reimbursement will be denied if the outcome report and applicable receipts (airfare and lodging) are not included.
- D. A sample invoice can be provided to assist with your reimbursement request.
- E. Mentoring exchanges are limited to two per organization.
- F. Funding is allocated on "first-come, first-served" basis for applicants meeting the criteria. The mentoring program ends when available funds are exhausted.

Rural Healthcare Exchange Program- OUTCOME REPORT

"Peer-to-Peer Mentoring in Rural Idaho"

Due upon exchange completion and required for reimbursement

1) Applicant: _____ Date: _____

Organization: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____

Contact Name: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

Name of person(s) involved in exchange: _____

2) Location of exchange: _____

3) Exchange project:

a. Description of the completed exchange project: _____

b. What key issues or information were learned from this visit? _____

c. How will that information be used? _____

d. Please add your comments or suggestions to improve the peer-to-peer mentoring program or application process: _____



Please submit your invoice and receipts with this report.